

Message Text

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44

ACTION SCI-06

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SUBJECT: EIGHTH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

REFDS: A) OSLO A-86, MAY 14, 1974 (B) STATE 98992, MAY 13, 1974

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE OF 17 SEPT 1974
RE EIGHTH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (OSLO, OCTOBER
14-18) INCLUDING ANNEXED DRAFT AGENDA:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE ROYAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS
ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO ITS NOTE
OF 6 MAY 1974 CONCERNING THE EIGHTH ANTARCTIC TREATY
CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROYAL MINISTRY
THAT THE PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED DATES FOR THE PREPARA-
TORY MEETING ARE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE CONSUL-
TATIVE PARTIES. IT IS THEREFORE CONFIRMED THAT THE
PREPARATORY MEETING WILL BE HELD IN OSLO FROM 14
TO 18 OCTOBER 1974.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF THE DATES
WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN FIXED FOR THE NEXT SESSION OF
THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF
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THE SEA IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED TO ADVANCE THE DATES
FOR THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

THE MINISTRY HAS GIVEN A VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THIS QUESTION AND COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT AN ADVANCEMENT OF THE MEETING WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR TECHNICAL REASONS.

THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING WILL THEREFORE BE HELD IN OSLO ON THE DATES PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED AND AGREED TO I.E. 14 TO 25 APRIL 1975.

AN IMPORTANT TASK OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING IN OCTOBER WILL BE TO DISCUSS AND ADOPT A DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES THE MINISTRY ATTACHED HERewith A PROPOSED DRAFT AGENDA WHICH MAY BE USED AS BASIS FOR THE DISCUSSIONS. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT ITEMS 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 AND 7 ARE ITEMS RECOMMENDED BY OR ARISING FROM THE SEVENTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT ITEM 3 IS CLOSELY RELATED TO ITEM 4 AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT THE SAME MEETING.

CONSULTATIVE PARTIES WILL BE AWARE THAT INFORMAL EXCHANGES TOOK PLACE AT CARACAS CONCERNING THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR THE SEA-BED AND OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING IN OCTOBER SHOULD COME PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE ANTARCTIC MINERALS QUESTION, AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TREATY AREA OF THE MATTERS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT A CLARIFICATION OF THE BROAD PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THESE QUESTIONS, PRIOR TO THE GENEVA SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, COULD BE OF VALUE TO CONSULTATIVE PARTIES.

LASTLY THE MINISTRY WOULD LIKE AGAIN TO REMIND THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES THAT NO INTERPRETATION WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING.

THE ROYAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF
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ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.
OSLO, 17 SEPTEMBER 1974

ANNEX
EIGHT ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING
DRAFT AGENDA

1. RATIONALISATION OF EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION

(PARWMRAPH 11-14 OF FINAL REPORT, 7TH
CONSULTATIVE MEETING)

2. RECONSIDERATION OF SCAR'S VIEWS ON MAN'S IMPACT
ON THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

(RECOMMENDATION VII-1 PARAGRAPH 1).

3. REVIEW OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS IN THE LIGHT
OF SCAR'S ADVICE (RECOMMENDATION VII-2).

4. DESIGNATION OF SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC
INTEREST IN THE LIGHT OF SCAR'S ADVICE

(RECOMMENDATION VII-3 PARAGRAPH 2).

5. PREPARATION OF A STATEMENT OF THE ACCEPTED
PRACTICES AND THE RELVANT PROVISIONS ABOUT
WHICH ALL VISITORS TO THE TREATY AREA SHOULD BE
AWARE

(RECOMMENDATION VII-4, PARAGRAPH 2).

6. DISIGNATION OF AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO
TOURISTS (RECOMMENDATION VII-4, PARAGRAPH 3).

7. ANTARCTIC RESOURCES- EFFECTS OF MINERAL
EXPLORATION (RECOMMENDATION VII-6). END TEXT.

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON COMPOSITION OF US
DELEGATION.

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